



BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1917.

Tunbridge Wells:

BALDWIN, GROSVENOR WORKS.

1771/18

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1917.

Population Estimated to the middle of the Year, 30,751.¹

Area of the Borough, 3,991 acres.

Rateable Value, £307,572.

CENSUS 1911.	{	Population, 35,703.
		Number of Inhabited Houses, 7,671.
		Average Number of Persons per House, 4·6.
		Density of Population, 8·9 Persons per acre.

Number of Deaths 465 (440 in the Borough, 98 inward transfers,² and 73 outward transfers)³.

Crude Death-rate per thousand, 15·1. Average for previous ten years, 12·9. Death-rate corrected for age and sex constitution, 13·1.

Number of Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, 7. Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases, 0·5 per thousand of the population.

Death-rate from Phthisis, 0·97 per thousand living.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis, all forms, 1·40.

Number of Births. Boys, 218; Girls, 162; total, 380.

Birth-rate per thousand, 11·1. Average for the previous ten years, 15·7.

Infantile Mortality, 81·6 per thousand born. Average for the previous ten years, 71·9.

Mean Annual Temperature, 48·1°.

Total Rainfall, 31·38.

Hours of Bright Sunshine, 1515hrs. 12mins.

¹ This figure, calculated by the Registrar-General from returns received under the National Registration Act, is less than that of the 1901 and 1911 census and is obviously too small for Tunbridge Wells; it is, however, adopted here for the sake of uniformity with the other records throughout the kingdom based upon similar calculations.

² Inward transfer, means death of person belonging to Borough who died in district beyond the Borough.

³ Outward transfer, means death of person belonging to district beyond the Borough who died within the Borough.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of
Tunbridge Wells.*

I have pleasure in laying my Annual Report before you upon the health and sanitary condition of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells for the year 1917.

In doing so, I experience, not for the first time, the gratification of being able to state that the general health of the Borough has been satisfactory, and so far as the Mortality from Zymotic disease is concerned, allows me to declare a mere fractional rate per 1,000 and one of the lowest numbers on record.

The report is a brief summary in accordance with the directions contained in the Local Government Board circular dated 28th December, 1917.

During the year we experienced an extensive outbreak of German Measles (or Rubella) as did many other towns in the country, and in consequence I had to close many of the Schools in the Borough.

I must not omit this occasion to pass without reference to the great service Mr. James Cave, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, also the Staff, have rendered in the fulfilment of the duties of the office in the course of the year, and I have to thank Mr. Cave for giving me his assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WM. STAMFORD.

REPORT.

Vital Statistics of the District.

The Registrar-General has estimated the population of the Borough, from figures obtained under the National Registration Act, to be 30,751 for the Death Rate and 34,279 for the Birth Rate.

Births.—The total number of births registered in the district was 318, the rate being 11.1 per thousand as compared with the rate of 14.2 per thousand in 1916. 218 boys and 162 girls were born.

Deaths.—440 deaths were registered in the Borough, and after correction for inward and outward transfers the number of deaths of inhabitants was 465, this gives a death rate of 15.1 per thousand as compared with the same figure exactly for 1916.

The figure for correction supplied by the Registrar-General, in order that it may be compared in age and sex constitution to the death rate in the Kingdom generally, is 0.8683, applying this correction, the Tunbridge Wells death rate is 13.1 per thousand.

Infant Mortality.—31 deaths of infants below one year of age occurred, giving a mortality of 81.6 per thousand as compared with 61.8 per thousand in 1916.

Infectious Diseases.—The administrative work in regard to Infectious Diseases including Tuberculosis has been carried out on the lines laid down in previous reports. The number of cases notified is shown on Table II. and the number of deaths on Table III.

Means to prevent Mortality in Childbirth and Infancy.

2,132 visits (of which 303 were first visits and 1,829 re-visits) were made by the Health Visitors to give advice to mothers on general hygiene of infancy, and has been much appreciated. Special visits have been made when circumstances demanded same, and especially during the warm weather when most danger was to be apprehended from diarrhœa.

The Infant Consultation Centre continues its good work with unabated success under the able direction of Dr. Perkins, who informs me that the total number of mothers and guardians who attended for advice during 1917 was 116, the total number of attendanees being 550. Considering the smaller number of births compared with 1916, the above figures prove that mothers appreciate the value of advice obtained at the clinic. The increased price and shortage of milk and other commodities has much increased the difficulty of rearing artificially fed infants, but all in attendance with about two exceptions have survived, and most of them done well as shown in the Baby Week success.

Food Inspection and Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

297lbs. of food, namely 37lbs. beef, 13lbs. liver, 3lbs. kidneys, 20lbs. herrings, 168lbs. mackerel, and 56lbs. cheese were surrendered and dealt with.

108 samples of food were submitted to the Public Analyst.

One vendor was prosecuted and fined respectively as follows: Food and Drugs Act, £3 and 10s. 6d. costs; Margarine Act, 5s. and 10s. 6d. costs; Defence of Realm Act, 5s. and 5s. costs.

One prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act was dismissed.

Housing.

All matters requiring attention in regard to housing have been dealt with under the Public Health Acts as shown under Sanitary Inspections of District.

Sanitary Inspections of District.

These Tables present a summary of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1917.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 41 | Complaints received and investigated. |
| | Premises in respect of which statutory notices have been served. |
| 12 | Premises in respect of which informal notices have been served. |
| 17 | Houses, drains and sanitary fittings inspected. |
| 194 | Visits of re-inspection or to work in course of progress. |
| 5 | Drains re-constructed. |
| 17 | Drains repaired. |
| 13 | Choked drains cleared and cleansed. |
| 18 | Inspection chambers constructed. |
| 4 | Inspection chambers repaired. |
| 7 | Drain ventilation shafts erected or repaired. |
| 5 | Soil pipes erected. |
| 2 | Soil pipes repaired. |

- 12 W.C.'s re-constructed and provided with flushing apparatus.
- 4 Flushing apparatus repaired.
- 34 Efficient traps substituted for inefficient ones.
- 15 Rain-water and waste pipes disconnected from drains and made to discharge over properly trapped gullies.
- 11 Yards and areas paved or paving repaired.
- 7 New w.c. buildings and apparatus constructed.
- 10 W.C.'s cleansed and repaired.
- 9 New sinks provided.
- 6 New lavatory basins provided.
- 14 Old sinks provided with new waste pipes.
- 9 Eaves gutters repaired.
- 7 Windows repaired.
- 4 Floors repaired.
- 10 Air inlets under floors provided.
- 3 Roofs repaired.
- 2 Rooms ventilated to the outer air.
- Food cupboards ventilated to the outer air.
- New food cupboards provided.
- House supplied with sufficient supply of water.
- Samples of water submitted for analysis.
- 51 Rooms cleansed and limewashed.
- 4 Dustbins provided or repaired.
- 24 Various improvements.
- 46 Hours' observation work.
- 191 Special inspections of back yards and premises.
- 176 Inspections of stable yards and manure pits.
- 41 Offensive accumulations removed.
- 1 Stable paved and drained.
- 68 Inspections of slaughter houses.
- 38 Inspections of cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops.
- 6 Inspections of common lodging houses.
- 720 Inspection of food shops.
- 461 Parcels of food examined.
- 297 lbs. food unfit for human consumption seized and destroyed.
- 135 Visits, interviews, etc., *re* work to be carried out.
- 29 Special inspections of urinals at licensed premises.
- 10 Workrooms limewashed.
- 1 Workroom measured up for air space.
- 9 Visits to workshops.

Works carried out under the Infectious Diseases Acts during 1917.

- 82 Visits to infected houses.
- 86 Rooms disinfected.
- 1975 Articles of clothing disinfected.
- 1 Load of bedding removed to the steam disinfectors and returned to the respective owners.
- 18 Visits to disinfect public buildings.
- 2 Visits to disinfect St. John Ambulance and private vehicles.
- 3 Visits to disinfect wards at Sanatorium, General Hospital, etc.
- 1 Load of bedding destroyed.
- 1 Visit to Sanatorium to disinfect clothing, etc.
- 8 Visits to flush W.C.'s and drains.

Sanitary Certificates.

The drainage and general sanitary conditions of properties of an aggregate rateable value of £857 were surveyed and reported upon as a result of applications made during the year for sanitary certificates.

MORTALITY FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES FOR TEN YEARS.

	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Scarlet Fever	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup	1	3	0	8	10	4	1	5	7	1
Diarrhœa & Dysentery	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa & Enteritis..	—	—	—	18	2	2	4	4	5	1
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	3	7	1	3	1	0	8	1	1	2
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	3	8	0	2	21	3	5	0
Total number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases	10	20	8	38	14	9	34	15	18	7
Percentage upon deaths from all causes ...	2·4	4·2	1·9	9·1	3·5	2·4	6·7	2·7	3·7	1·5
Zymotic Death Rate per thousand living ...	0·3	0·5	0·2	1·0	0·3	0·2	0·9	0·4	0·5	0·2

Seasonal Incidence of Acute Infectious Diseases, 1917.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Acute Polio- myelitis.	Measles.	German Measles.
January ...	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	17
February...	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	58
March ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	11	173
April ...	6	6	—	2	1	—	—	—	8	160
May ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	105
June ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	39
July ...	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	32	30
August ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	23	7
September	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
October ...	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
November	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
December	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Total ...	12	40	2	13	2	—	—	—	91	600

Population, Birth and Death Rates from 1907 to 1917.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Infantile Mortality.	Zymotic Death-rate.
1907	35,273	16·8	13·6	73·9	1·1
1908	35,573	17·3	11·7	81·4	0·3
1909	35,873	17·2	13·2	59·8	0·5
1910	36,173	16·3	11·3	75·8	0·2
1911	35,778	15·8	11·5	86·4	1·0
1912	36,038	15·8	11·0	43·8	0·3
1913	36,298	15·0	12·1	66·0	0·2
1914	36,460	13·8	13·8	79·2	0·9
1915	33,430	15·2	16·6	91·7	0·4
1916	32,316	14·2	15·1	61·8	0·5
10 Years' Average		15·7	12·9	71·9	0·5
1917	30,751	*11·1	15·1	81·6	0·2

*Estimated Population 34,279.

Quarterly Death-Rate per thousand per annum for a period of Five Years.

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
1st Quarter ...	14·6	18·8	23·2	17·5	21·5
2nd Quarter ...	11·4	10·3	16·0	15·0	13·0
3rd Quarter ...	10·0	13·0	11·9	13·6	10·1
4th Quarter ...	12·2	13·0	15·4	14·2	15·8

Number of Deaths :—

First Quarter ...	165	} Quarterly death-rates worked out on a population of 30,751 for all the year.
Second Quarter ...	100	
Third Quarter ...	78	
Last Quarter ...	122	
	465	

Showing the Number of Deaths at Ages beyond Sixty years.

Over 90 years of age	...	...	11
Under 90 and over 80	...	...	70
Under 80 and over 70	...	...	111
Under 70 and over 60	...	...	90
Total			282
(Deaths at all ages, 465).			

Showing the Mortality at Several Ages for a period of Five Years.

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Deaths at under 1 year	36	40	51	31	31
„ 1 and under 2	3	13	7	6	6
„ 2 and under 5	7	13	11	6	3
„ 5 and under 15	12	18	20	16	18
„ 15 and under 25	8	14	12	17	16
„ 25 and under 45	48	55	43	38	33
„ 45 and under 65	104	103	121	104	117
„ 65 and upwards	222	248	291	269	241
Totals ...	440	504	556	487	465

Causes of Infantile Mortality 1908—1917.

	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	Total Deaths, 10 years	Rate per 1000 Births.
Marasmus ...	6	5	7	2	3	11	6	3	6	2	51	9.4
Premature Birth ...	10	9	15	9	7	5	6	11	7	10	89	16.4
Bronchitis ...	5	1	4	6	...	1	2	3	3	1	26	4.8
Pneumonia ...	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	9	1	5	32	5.9
Convulsions ...	2	5	1	2	1	...	2	5	2	2	22	4.1
Congenital Defects ...	5	2	1	3	5	1	3	5	3	...	28	5.1
Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	4	2	5	11	...	1	3	3	1	...	30	5.5
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	3	5	...	...	8	1	2	...	22	4.1
Overlaying ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	4	0.7
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	0.4
Non-Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	0.9
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	0.6
Tubercular Peritonitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0.2
Syphilis ...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	7	1.3
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...	11	9	4	6	6	12	6	6	6	7	73	13.4
Total Deaths below 1 year ...	50	37	45	49	25	36	40	51	31	31	395	...
Rate per 1,000 Births...	81.4	59.8	75.8	86.4	43.8	66.0	79.2	91.7	61.8	81.6	72.8	...

The number of Births during the 10 years (1908—1917) was 5,429.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1917.

Notifiable Disease.	No of Cases Notified.						Total Cases Notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the District.					Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.		
		Under 1.	At Ages—Years.									
			1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.					45 to 65 and upwards.	
Small-pox
Cholera (C) Plague (P)
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	40	10	22	3	4	1	9	4	12	15	39	
Erysipelas	13	...	...	...	6	7	2	2	3	6	...
Scarlet Fever	12	...	8	2	1	...	9	3	...	...	11
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	45	...	3	11	17	13	15	10	12	8	9	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	14	...	3	6	...	1	3	4	4	3	...	
Measles	91	1	28	43	7	11	26	13	7	45	...	
German Measles	600	8	69	328	114	73	146	133	97	224	2	
Totals	819	11	112	407	143	113	212	170	135	302	62	

The Accommodation provided for the treatment of Infectious Diseases is as follows :—
THE SANATORIUM (The Tunbridge Wells Isolation Hospital) situate in Tunbridge Wells...
THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, situate in Tunbridge Wells (the Authorities are under an Agreement at a contract price to treat cases of Enteric Fever)
THE DISLINGBURY HOSPITAL for Small-pox and Plague, situate at Capel in the Tunbridge Rural District, belonging to the Joint Hospital Board of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation, the Tunbridge Urban District Council, the Southborough Urban District Council, and the Tunbridge Rural District Council ...
Scarlet Fever ... 40 Beds.
Diphtheria ... 17 Beds.
... All Beds required.
... 20 Beds.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1917.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								Total Deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Institutions in the District	
				All Ages.	Und'r 1 year	1 and 2 years	2 and 5 years	5 and 15 years	15 and 25 years	25 and 45 years	45 and 65 years		65 and up-wards
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
All Causes	Certified	...	...	457	29	4	3	18	16	31	117	239	...
	Uncertified	...	...	8	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Influenza	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	5	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	6	10	11	3	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	11	2	1	...	2	4	...	2	...	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	26	18
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	2	1	2	18	37	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	39	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	31	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	31	5	1	1	2	...	2	9	11	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	3	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Alcoholism...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	13	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	7
Suicide	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	168	7	1	2	3	2	11	28	114	16
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Totals				465	31	6	3	18	16	33	117	241	70

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1917. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes	Certified	...	12	4	1	1	18	3	4	2	2	29
	Uncertified		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
{	Small-pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Chicken-pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Measles	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Whooping-cough	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
{	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Convulsions	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
{	Laryngitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Bronchitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
{	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	5
	Diarrhoea	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Enteritis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Gastritis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Syphilis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
	Rickets	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Suffocation (overlying)	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	Injury at Birth	...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
{	Atelectasis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Congenital Malformations	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{	Premature Birth	...	5	3	1	1	10	—	—	—	—	10
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
{	Other causes	...	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
	Totals	...	12	4	1	1	18	4	4	2	3	31

NETT BIRTHS IN THE YEAR—

Legitimate ... 355
Illegitimate ... 25

NETT DEATHS IN THE YEAR OF—

Legitimate Infants ... 24
Illegitimate Infants ... 6
Unknown ... 1

The following corrected figures for deaths of residents belonging to the Borough during 1917 was supplied by the Registrar-General, viz., 468 or 15.2 per thousand. There is some slight discrepancy between the figures obtained from the annual and the quarterly returns received from the same source which makes a difference of one decimal point.

Causes of Death during the Year 1917, in Tunbridge Wells.

Figures supplied by the Registrar-General.

Civilians only, all Causes						Males. 212	Females. 256
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria or Croup	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	15	18
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	21	35
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	36	30
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	17	20
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	14	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	61	97
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	20	13
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	225	171
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	207	150
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	18	21

POPULATION FOR DEATH RATE ... 30,751
 „ „ BIRTH RATE ... 34,279